

Whytemead Primary School
Dominion Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN14 8LH



Head teacher: Mr. G. Ward
Tel: Worthing 01903 202639
Fax: 01903 206072
Email: office@whytemead.w-sussex.sch.uk
Web site: www.whytemead.w-sussex.sch.uk

Friday 15th December

Dear Parents and Carers

As we get close to the end of term I just wanted to say thank you for all your support during this term and wish you a very Happy Holiday. I would also like to thank all the staff who have worked very hard all year to make sure that your children enjoy their learning at Whytemead.

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising and running another very successful Christmas Fair. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help run stalls and make it such a fantastic event; without your support the Fair could not go ahead.

The fair raised £2500 for the school; which is amazing. The plan is to use some of the money to fund more iPads to go into classes. Thanks to the PTA for the class Christmas presents which the children will receive before the end of term. I will keep it a surprise for now but I know the children will be very pleased with their class gift.

Staff news

Jo Gathern our school bursar has gained promotion and is moving to Glebe Primary School, her last day is Friday 15th December. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Jo for all her hard work and wishing her the best of luck in her new job. Our new school bursar is Sue Richardson. She is very experienced in this role and will be a fantastic addition to our team. Some of you may have spotted her in the office, as she has worked alongside Jo to ensure a smooth transition. She will be starting on Monday 18th December.

Mrs Jennings will be returning to Willow Class when we restart in January and I would like to thank Mrs Elliott for covering her absence.

Communication

I have been made aware that there have been some issues with communication recently. A letter with all the Christmas events should have gone out at beginning of December but it appears that a technical issue meant that the electronic version did not go out. I am very sorry that this happened, as the idea was to

keep you fully briefed on all the Christmas events. The school communicates events through emails, text, letters and the school website. If you are not sure about something that is sent to you please speak to a member of staff, who will be able to clarify.

The Whytemead Facebook page is not run by the school but is a platform for parents to discuss school events. I wanted to make it clear that we are not involved in maintaining or monitoring this page.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Attendance and Term time Holiday

Attendance is a really important contributing factor to your child's academic progress and achievement. The Government does not allow us to authorise any holiday during the academic year. The following guidance has been issued by the DFE: *Holiday may only be taken during the school holiday (of which there are 175 days). Withdrawal from learning in term time now may only be authorised by the Head teacher if they consider there are exceptional circumstances or medical issues. Unauthorised absence can lead to the issue of a fixed penalty notice.*

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January, we look forward to seeing you all then.

Best Wishes



Mr G. Ward

Head teacher